

Poetry.

"HE DIED AND LIVES."

I hear the words of love,
I gaze upon the blood;
I see the mighty sacrifice,
And I have peace with God.
'Tis everlasting peace,
Sure as Jehovah's name,
'Tis stable as his steadfast throne,
Forever more the same.

The clouds may go and come,
And storms may sweep my sky,
This blood-sealed friendship changes not,
The cross is ever nigh.
My love is ofttimes low,
My joy still ebbs and flows;
But peace with him remains the same,
No change Jehovah knows.

That which can shake the cross,
May shake the peace it gave—
Which tells me Christ has never died,
Or never left the grave.
Till then my peace is sure,
It will not, cannot yield;
Jesus, I know, has died and lives—
On this firm rock I build.

I change, he changes not,
The Christ can never die;
His love, not mine, the resting-place,
His truth, not mine, the tie.
The cross still stands unchanged,
Though heaven is now his home;
The mighty stone is rolled away,
But yonder is his tomb.

And yonder is my peace,
The grave of all my woes!
I know the Son of God has come,
I know he died and rose.
I know he liveth now
At God's right hand above;
I know the throne on which he sits,
I know his truth and love!

—H. Bonar.

Contributions.

PREACH JESUS.

J. A. RIDENOUR.

About 1900 years ago, when Augustus Cæsar was emperor of Rome, and Herod was king in Jerusalem, the emperor issued a decree that all the Jews should assemble in their native cities and be enrolled and taxed.

Josep and Mary who were the descendants of David, residing in Nazareth, went up to Bethlehem the city of David to be enrolled. The city was filled with people and there was no room in the inns for them, so they lodged in a stable.

It was there and then that Mary gave birth to the infant Saviour, whose conception was divine. The angel Gabrel had before told them that they should call his name Jesus, which means Saviour.

This wonderful and interesting child, though born in a manger of obscure and humble parents, attracted the attention of

the sages of the East; who being guided by the Almighty God, came to Bethlehem bringing rich and valuable gifts for him. They reverently bowed and worshiped before him.

That same night, the angel of the Lord announced to the shepherds who watched their flocks by night, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The air then seemed to be filled with myriads of angels, who sang, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will to men." There is but one song that I know of, that shall excel this in rapture and glory; that is the song of the redeemed—that great company that no man can number, who will have come up out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

And though Herod desired to destroy the life of the infant Saviour, it was miraculously preserved by the interposition of divine Providence. And he waxed strong, growing in favor both with God and man. So that at the age of twelve years, he by his wisdom, put to silence the learned doctors of the Jewish law, in the temple of God at Jerusalem.

When Jesus was about thirty years of age, he came to John the Baptist, and was baptized of him in Jordan. At this, the threshold of his public life and ministry, he was recognized and owned of God as his Son. Coming up straightway out of the water, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit in the form of a dove descended and lighted upon him, and the Father spake and said, "This is my Son the beloved, in whom I am delighted."

The great battle was now to be fought between the devil and the second Adam. So Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil, forty days and forty nights. Under the most severe and trying circumstances, the powers of darkness exhausted all their cunning and skill to seduce and overcome the Saviour of the world. But Jesus was victorious. He put the enemy to flight, and won the first grand victory for the world's salvation. In a similar attack upon the first Adam Satan won, and the disastrous result we all remember.

Jesus, the conquering Saviour, now enters fully upon his public ministry. For four years he met the enemy at every point and conquered, nor did he lose a single battle. He went from place to place doing good and dispensing blessings to the children of men, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, casting out devils, speaking kindly to the erring, com-

forting the sorrowing, raising the dead to life, mingling his tears with those who wept for the loss of departed ones.

He sympathized with the unfortunate everywhere. None were so poor as to escape his notice. None so sinful and degraded as not to have his compassion and forgiveness, for the mere asking in sincerity. He was holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners. Though he was tempted in all points as we are, yet he did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

He spake and acted as man never spake and acted before. As man he tired, hungered, and slept. As God he spake to the winds and waves and they obeyed his voice. And although as man, he was perfection itself and should have been loved and honored by all, yet he had enemies who hated, persecuted, and falsely accused him and finally assassinated him.

But in death he achieved even greater victories than he did by his life. He conquered hell and the grave, becoming Lord of lords and King of kings. He now yields all authority both in heaven and on earth. And before Him, finally, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that he is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, of things in heaven, things on the earth, and things under the earth. Then he shall be all, and in all.

On the third day he rose triumphantly from the grave, and "By many infallible proofs" he showed himself alive from the dead to die no more. After commissioning his apostles, he publicly ascended to the right hand of God in the heavens, where HE NOW APPEARS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD FOR US, as our great High Priest and intercessor.

But in his own time he will come to earth again and receive us unto himself, that where he is, there we may also be. It does not yet appear what we shall be, but when he shall appear, we shall be LIKE HIM for we shall see him as he is. We shall be with him, for we shall EVER be with the Lord. This is enough, "That will be heaven for me." For this I can trust, love and obey him while I live. FOR THIS, O, LORD help me, if it is necessary, for Thee to die.

Dear brethren, preach Jesus. No theme like it. Angels desired to look into it. All else compared with it, sink into insignificance. It is deep as the sea, as high as heaven, and as broad as eternity. Preach more about Jesus, for his life we are saved, by his death we are reconciled to God, and by his resurrection we are justified. And by his power we are kept, and ultimately shall be made partakers of "The divine nature."

Elkhart, Ind.